

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 301146Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 944

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0776

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR GH

SUB: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REF: STATE 020621,

1. OUR READING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN THE ACQUISITION OF "SOPHISTICATED" WEAPONS. THIS STANCE RESULTS PARTLY FROM FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSTRAINTS, BUT ALSO FROM THE VIEW OF GHANA'S INTERNATIONAL ROLE AND THREATS TO IT HELD BY THE PRESENT REGIME. GHANA PERCEIVES NO DANGER TO ITS SECURITY FROM IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS OR FROM NATIONS IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION. THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IS BASICALLY INTERNAL DEFENSE COUPLED WITH A DESIRE TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FROM TIME TO TIME IN UN OPERATION (SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST).

2. GOG BELIEVES IT CAN PERFORM THIS ROLE WITH BUT SMALL ADDITIONS TO PRESENT ARMAMENT INVENTORY, ALTHOUGH IT WISHES TO UPDATE OLDER EQUIPMENT ON HAND. NEW ITEMS GOG WOULD ACQUIRE IF FOREIGN EXCHANGE WERE AVAILABLE (OR MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH A MECHANISM SUCH AS FMS CREDIT) INCLUDE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT (PREFERABLY C-130 WHICH WOULD ALSO BE USED IN CIVILIAN FREIGHT AND PASSENGER OPERATIONS) AND SMALL PATROL VESSELS TO IMPROVE CAPABILITY FOR INTERCEPTION OF SMUGGLERS AND REGULATION OF FISHING ALONG COAST. GHANA DOES WANT TO REPLACE OUTDATED EQUIPMENT SUCH AS SCOUT CARS

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AND RIFLES BUT THESE REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE BY EQUIPMENT OF

ESSENTIALLY SAME GENERATION.

3. IT APPEARS THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE INTEREST IN PROVISION OF FREE EQUIPMENT OF A SOPHISTICATED NATURE BY ANY SUPPLYING NATION SO LONG AS PRESENT REGIME IS IN POWER AND MAINTAINS ITS CURRENT POLICIES. OUR PROVISION OF FMS AND MAP TRAINING IS APPRECIATED AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TRAINING MIGHT BE ACCEPTED FROM SOVIETS SHOULD OUR PROGRAM BE SERIOUSLY CURTAILED. MAINTENANCE OF TRAINING PROGRAM AT OR NEAR CURRENT LEVELS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THIS EMBASSY AND WOULD SERVE TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT, AN INVOLVEMENT WHICH SO FAR HAS BEEN OPPOSED WITHIN THE SMC. GHANA WOULD NOT SEEK OR ACCEPT A SECURITY GUARANTEE FROM THE U.S.
BLACK

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